



# Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.  
Commissioner

April 30, 2015

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Other Members of the Holyoke Community:

On Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, after significant deliberation and after hearing from Holyoke educators, parents, community leaders and teachers, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education voted to place the Holyoke school district in state receivership.

All children in Holyoke can be successful, but that is not happening now. I am committed to working with Holyoke parents, educators, partner organizations, and community members to ensure that all students achieve at high levels, reach their full potential, and are prepared to succeed in the world that awaits them after high school.

Later this spring, I will name a new leader, called a *receiver*, to lead the Holyoke Public Schools. This receiver will report directly to me, and will be accountable for improving education in Holyoke for the benefit of every student.

I know there may be questions in the community about what will change with a state receiver. If you currently have a child in school, I do not expect a change in your child's program for the remainder of this school year. During the summer, we will be planning for improvements across the district. You will begin to see those positive changes next year.

Many of you have already provided thoughtful ideas and I want to continue to hear from you and answer any questions you have about what this means for your child and your school. I will be coming to Holyoke in the coming weeks to speak with you directly. A Spanish translator will be available at the meeting. Please watch for notices about these meetings on the Department's website ([www.doe.mass.edu](http://www.doe.mass.edu)) and on the Holyoke Public Schools website ([www.hps.holyoke.ma.us/](http://www.hps.holyoke.ma.us/)).

I look forward to working with you and serving the children of Holyoke.

Sincerely,

Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.  
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education